New York, New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, NYPL Spencer 105

Description: ff. iii + 176 + iii - Bound in 18th century faded red velvet. - Dedication to Elinor of Austria, f. 7-9, with her arms. Henry Huth, his sale, Sotheby's, 19 November 1911, lot 797 to Maggs; Maggs, 1930 to Quaritch. James P. R. Lyell. Bought for Spencer from Quaritch, 1951. - Dictionary Catalog, Spencer Collection, 904. Gisela Fischer-Heetfeld, "Zur Vorrede von Heinrich Steinhowels 'Griseldis'-Ubersetzung," Festschrift Walter Haug und Burghart Wachinger (Tubingen, 1993), 671-9. - Jonathan J. G. Alexander, James H. Marrow and Lucy Freeman Sandler, The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the New York Public Library(London / Turnhout: The New York Public Library / Harvey Miller Publishers, 2005) n. 99.

Acknowledgments: - We thank Prof. Jeffrey Hamburger for his extensive work towards the present description of this manuscript.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 10

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLSpencer105_42

Language: German *Country:* Germany *Century:* 15th

Part 1: ff. 1-176v

Description: - Paper - 293 x 208 mm - Up to 37 long lines per page, ruled in black ink. Catchword visible, f. 12v.

Country: Germany *Cardinal point:*

Region: *City:* Ulm

Assigned Date: s. XV$^{4/4}$ *Searchable Date Range:* 1475 - 1499

Dated by scribe: No *Inscribed Date:*

Document: No *Number of Scribes:* ;3?: A, ff. 1-64v; B, ff. 64v-148v, 152-155; C, ff. 149-151v, 156-173

Script: Hybrida

Figurative Decoration: 73 pen-and-ink drawings, colored, based on woodcuts of ca. 1474 edition. 3 artists.

Other Decoration: Border designs and flourishes, large opening initials.

Notes: Produced in or after ca. 1474 because it is copied from a book printed at that date. The number of scribes may be as high as 4 or 6. Latin

Number of Texts: 2

Text 1: ff. 1-157

Author: Giovanni Boccaccio

Other Associate: Heinrich Steinho"wel, translator

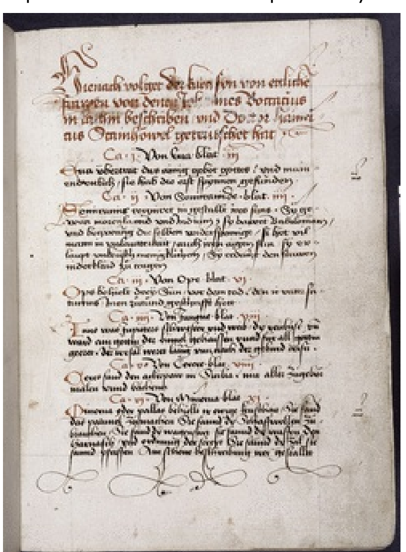
Title: Von synnrychen erluchten wyben

Title: Hienach volget der kurz syn von ettlichen frawen von denen Johannes Boccacius in lathin beschriben, und Doctor Hainricus Stainhowel geteutschet hat

Language(s): German

Incipit: Der durchluchtigissten furstin und frawen fraw Elienory herzogin ze esterreich

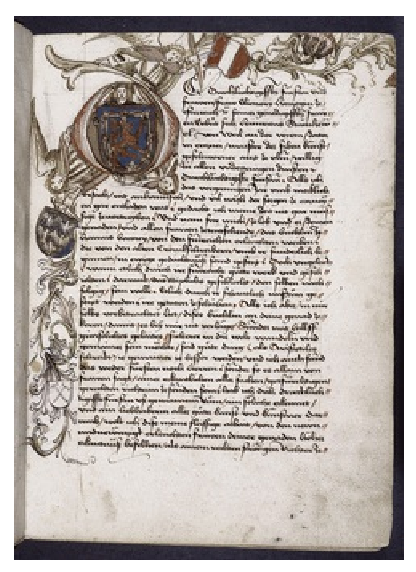
Notes: Text translated into German by Heinrich Steinho"wel; text and illustration copied mainly from the editio princeps of Steinho"wel's work printed by Johannes Zainer in Ulm ca. 1474 (GW 4486).



f. 1 Title in rubric, opening of table of contents with reference to chapter and page number.

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f. 7 Dedication to Elinor of Austria; initial with her arms, and angels as supporters; in the side margin, Steinho"wel's arms.

View image

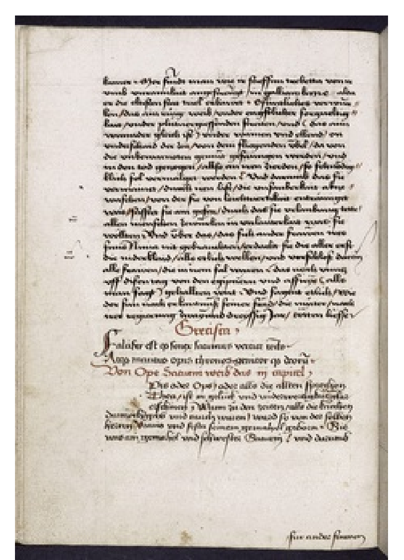
Download image



f. 9v Initial S formed a a female-headed snake, offering the apple to Eve, with Adam below; in the leaves of the decoration in the upper border, allegories of the 7 deadly sins, partially cropped.

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f. 12v Page of text with space reserved for a 3-line initial; catchword in lower right margin.

View image

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f. 55v Drawing of the murder of Polyxena by Neoptolemus on the tomb of Achilles.

View image

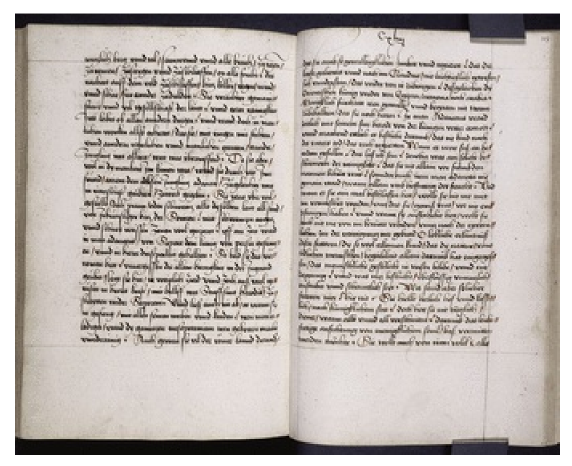
Download image



f. 64v Image of Penelope weaving as suitors brawl over her hand; change of scribe.

View image

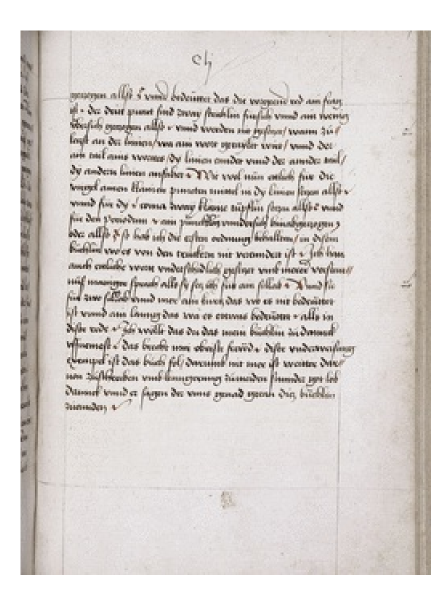
Download image



ff. 148v-149 Change from hand 2 (f. 148v) to hand 3 (f. 149).

View image

Download image



f. 157 Explicit of text.

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Text 2: ff. 160-173

Author: Giovanni Boccaccio

Other Associate: Petrarch

Title: Griseldis

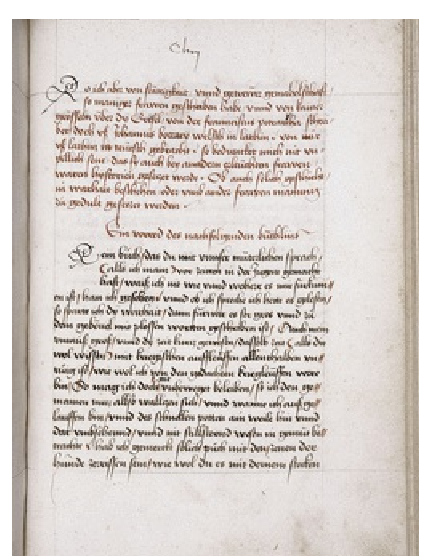
Title: So ich aber von staettigkeit unnd getrewer gemahelschaft so maniger frawen geschriben habe unnd von kainer grossern uber dy Grisel von der franciscus petrarcha schreibet doch uf Johannis boccacii welsch in lathin

Language(s): German

Incipit: Sein buch das du mit unnser mueterlichen sprach alls ich main vor zeitten in der Jugent gemacht hast

Explicit: belib erb des laundes unnd lebt in seligkait.

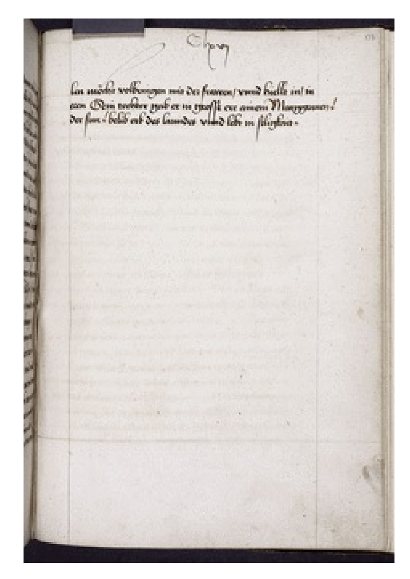
Notes: Possibly also translated by Heinrich Steinho"wel.



f. 160 Opening of text, rubrics, initials, placemarkers.

View image

Download image



f. 173 Explicit of text.

View image

Download image